

OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 10 - 2012

A RESOLUTION ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (RCW 36.70A.705)


- WHEREAS:** the Washington State Legislature, through ESHB 1886, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program ("VSP") for the protection of critical areas by voluntary management of agricultural activities in critical areas; and
- WHEREAS:** ESHB 1886, as codified in RCW 36.70A.710, states that "As an alternative to protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities through development regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.060, the legislative authority of a county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program."; and
- WHEREAS:** in order to participate in the VSP, the legislative authority of a county must elect to participate by January 22, 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** prior to electing to participate in the VSP, a county is required to (a) confer with tribes, and environmental and agricultural interests; and (b) provide notice following the public participation and notice provisions of RCW 36.70A.035 to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** notice was published soliciting participation on an advisory group whose task was to consider and make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners whether to opt-in to the program; and
- WHEREAS:** individual notices were sent to leadership and staff of groups representing agricultural, tribal, and environmental interests; and
- WHEREAS:** the advisory group met and deliberated on October 25, 2011 and November 22, 2011; and
- WHEREAS:** after deliberation the advisory group voted to make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners that Okanogan County elect to opt-in to the Voluntary Stewardship Program, and
- WHEREAS:** on January 9, 2012, the Okanogan Board of County Commissioners conducted an open public meeting to considered the recommendation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program Advisory Group, be it therefore
- RESOLVED:** That the Okanogan Board of County Commissioners hereby accepts the recommendation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program Advisory Group as transmitted in the memorandum attached hereto and thereby:

1. Elects to have Okanogan County participate in the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*.
2. Elects to participate on a county-wide basis

3. Does not nominate any watershed for consideration by the State Conservation Commission as state priority watersheds.
4. Elects to have Okanogan County proceed as required by ESHB 1886, as currently codified in RCW 36.70A, to implement the requirements of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* once the Washington State Legislature provides adequate funding for such activity.

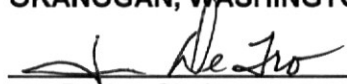
DATED at Okanogan, Washington this 9th day of January 2012

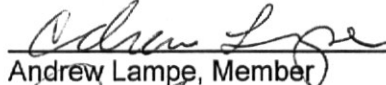
ATTEST:


Laleña Johns, CMC
Clerk of the Board

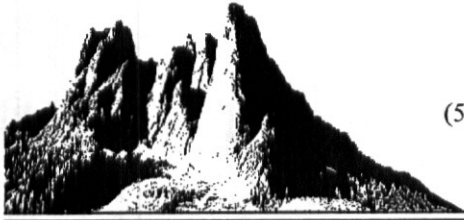


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**


Jim DeTro, Chairman


Andrew Lampe, Member


Don 'Bud' Hover, Member



OKANOGAN COUNTY
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Date: November 22, 2011

To: Okanogan Board of County Commissioners

From: Voluntary Stewardship Program Advisory Group
Perry D. Huston, Lead Staff

Topic: Recommendation to opt-in
Voluntary Stewardship Program

On November 22, 2011 the Voluntary Stewardship Program Advisory Group met and continued their deliberations from the October 25, 2011 meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting the members present (see attached minutes) voted to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners that Okanogan County opt-in to the program. Their recommendation included the following three points:

- 1) Opt-in to the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- 2) Opt-in on a County-wide basis with future consideration to independent work groups for the Methow and Okanogan watersheds.
- 3) No watershed would be recommended for priority status.

The group further discussed criteria that should be considered when the Commissioners appoint the work group(s) at some future date. To be considered for appointment the applicants should possess the following credentials:

- A) Registered voter in Okanogan County
- B) Extensive experience in owning/operating a commercial agriculture operation.
- C) Technical understanding of regulation structure and the ramifications of regulation on agricultural operations.

The advisory group recommends the membership of the work group(s) be limited to 7 or less. The advisory group requests the Commissioners involve them in the future discussions regarding work group appointments.